

Because no community in America is immune to the plague of school violence, and because we, as a Nation can no longer sit idly by while violence in our schools continue to rise, I sent a letter to the President on June 24th encouraging him to listen to the solutions of the American people from coast to coast and border to border.

For America to achieve success in combating school violence in our local communities, we must first address three important issues. First, the Federal Government must redirect its resources to States to focus on this problem at the local level. Secondly, our communities must continue to improve cooperative relations among local agencies whose job it is to address this problem associated with school violence.

Finally, it is important that any conference bring together, in a round table discussion, several representatives from local and Federal law enforcement agencies, courts, city councils, and school boards to develop local solutions to a national problem. Mr. Speaker, our children deserve no less.

AGRICULTURE EXPORT ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 1998

(Mr. EWING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. EWING. Mr. Speaker, with 40 percent of American agricultural commodities and products being exported, the American farmer is more reliant on international markets than any other sector of the U.S. economy. That is why it is so important that the U.S. lay out specific agricultural trade negotiation objectives.

Today, I am pleased to introduce the Agricultural Export Enhancement Act of 1998. Until recently, farm exports had soared over the past several years. However, too many trade barriers prevent billions of people from buying our products. Our trade negotiators need to focus their attention on eliminating tariffs, subsidies, and other foreign regulations that limit what we sell overseas.

This legislation would establish those negotiating objectives. I would suggest that it is a good bill for many Members of this House to support.

MANAGED CARE

(Mrs. CLAYTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, the way that Americans choose and obtain and pay their physician has changed drastically over the last 10 years.

Ten years ago, less than 30 percent of the people with health care insurance coverage were in managed care programs. Today, approximately 75 percent of insured employees are covered by managed care plans. A large amount of that 75 percent is questioning whether they are served well by that system.

The result is a health care system which is dominated by economic tools, limited budgets, limited hospital budgets, waiting hospital lines, waiting lines also with the managed care program. Many managed care constraints now limit what we can do.

Our goal must be to provide health care with increased health care coverage for this country. This is a national challenge. In Congress, we need to meet that challenge.

Supporting H.R. 3605, the Patients' Bill of Rights Act, is a first step in achieving health care reform. This bill will allow patients and doctors, not the insurance company, to control the length of stay, the quality of care. Mr. Speaker, I encourage you and my colleagues to join me in supporting of this bill.

FALSELY ACCUSED BEHAVIOR VERSUS GUILTY BEHAVIOR

(Mr. HEFLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, imagine you are falsely accused of crimes. You know that you are innocent, but the people who know the truth simply are not talking. People who could prove you are innocent, it turns out, are the Secret Service personnel who are constantly by your side and that could testify that all of the scurrilous accusations are, in fact, untrue. So your task is to convince everyone you know to come forward, to prove your innocence, and to clear your name.

Let us think about this for a minute. If a person is falsely accused of wrongdoing, clearly what must be done is to demand the people who know the truth to come forward and tell the whole world what they know. On the other hand, someone who is guilty of wrongdoing acts in a strikingly different manner. In such a case, all manner of excuse is given to prevent people from coming forward to tell what they know.

You do not have to be a Perry Mason fan to know the difference between a behavior of a falsely accused person and one that is guilty.

PROTECT MEDICAL PRIVACY: REJECT BIG BROTHER

(Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, Big Brother is back, this time in the form of a previously unpublicized provision in the law that would require every single American to have a special identification number. That number would allow every notation in his or her medical record to be tracked. Tracked by who knows who.

We have seen it before. We have seen it in the 1-800-Big Brother scheme that would require the Federal Government to sign off on each and every job hiring in this Nation. We have seen it in pro-

posals for some sort of national ID card. Now we are witnessing an unprecedented attempt to invade the privacy of one's medical records.

When most of us voted for legislation that would allow individuals to take their health care insurance with them when they changed jobs, we were not voting for a hidden provision to allow medical ID numbers.

Let us face it, medical records are extremely sensitive. This Member is going to work vigorously to protect the medical privacy of every American. Let us reject this latest example of Big Brother.

PATIENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS

(Mr. HINCHEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, all across New York and across America, many people are being denied access to the health care that they need. They are also being denied access to the doctor of their choice and the health care professional that they would like to consult and be advised by in order to get the health care they need.

Access to prescription drugs also is being denied to Americans. These drugs are needed to alleviate the health care conditions that they have. The problem is that our health care delivery system is out of control because it is increasingly controlled by bureaucrats and insurance companies.

We need a Patients' Bill of Rights which will allow Americans to get the health care they need, access to health care professionals and the professional medical advice they need, not from insurance company bureaucrats, but from health care professionals, the doctors that they want to consult.

That is why the democratic proposal for a Patients' Bill of Rights is so important. The hearing is going on now. We need to get that bill to the floor and get it passed.

BABY PHOENIX

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share the story of Baby Phoenix, first known survivor of a partial-birth abortion. Last week, in the A-Z Women's Center in Phoenix, Arizona, a 17-year-old was scheduled to abort her baby.

The abortionist began a partial-birth abortion on what he thought was a 23-week-old baby. However, as he continued the procedure, he realized that he was actually committing a partial-birth abortion on a 6-pound, 2-ounce baby girl.

Instead of continuing this procedure in which the doctor would stick scissors into the back of the girl's head and then vacuum her brains out, the